

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL PARK SCENIC OVERFLIGHT CONCESSIONS ACT

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to properly regulate airborne tourism in units of the National Park System.

The bill responds to a growing problem at a number of parks. In particular, I am concerned about current proposals for helicopter sightseeing at Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado, which could seriously detract from the enjoyment of other park visitors and also could have serious adverse impacts on the resources and values of the park itself.

While I believe that the National Park Service has both the mission and the authority to properly regulate such overflights, I think Congress should act to remove any doubts about that authority and to make sure that the American people—who own the National Parks—receive an appropriate share of the profits from such operations, through the payment of concession franchise fees. My bill is intended to achieve those goals.

The bill is entitled the "National Park Scenic Overflights Concessions Act of 1995." It is similar to legislation introduced in the 103d Congress by our colleague from Montana, Mr. WILLIAMS.

The bill would amend the 1965 law under which the National Park Service awards and manages concession contracts, to provide that commercial sightseeing flights over National Parks System units could be carried out only by companies who had been awarded a concession contract for such services.

In addition, the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to develop guidelines for deciding whether or not to award proposed concession contracts for commercial sightseeing flights over National Park System units, taking into consideration the laws, policies, and plans that govern management of the parks and the recommendations of the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] concerning aircraft safety.

The bill would require the FAA to place greater emphasis on reducing the problem of aircraft noise in parks and to work with the National Park Service to develop better ways of identifying and reporting low-overflight incidents in the parks.

Finally, the bill would require a report from the National Park Service and the FAA on progress made in the next 3 years in mitigating the adverse impact of overflights at National Park System units.

Mr. Speaker, I was very disappointed that comprehensive reform of National Park System concessions was not achieved last year, especially since the House passed a sound, balanced concessions reform bill by an over-

whelming vote only to see the measure die in the Senate's end-of-session gridlock. I continue to support comprehensive concession reform, and have cosponsored a concession reform bill introduced by our colleague from Kansas, Mrs. MEYERS. I urge the Resources Committee to either include the provisions of the bill I am introducing today as part of any comprehensive concessions bill they report to the House, or to act promptly on my bill as a free-standing measure.

IN HONOR OF HELEN GARRETT ALDER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ms. Helen Garrett Alder who is retiring after 31 years of dedicated service to the schoolchildren of California's 13th Congressional District.

Ms. Alder was born in Evansville, IN, and completed her undergraduate studies at Tuskegee Institute University in 1949. She earned her master's degree in education from Texas Southern University in Houston, TX. After coming to California, Ms. Alder began teaching in the Oakland Unified School District while continuing her education at Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley.

She began teaching physical education at Bret Harte Junior High and later moved to Skyline High School where she taught American Government, economics, and social studies. She also coached the girls' basketball and softball teams, was director of the cheerleaders and pesters and served as the department chair of student activities. Ms. Alder also taught driver's education and training and was an instructor at Edward Shands Adult School in Oakland.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Helen Garrett Alder for her commitment to the children of the Oakland Unified School District and am certain that she will be sorely missed. I hope that you and my colleagues will join me in wishing Ms. Alder much happiness and success in her future endeavors.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1868) making ap-

propriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the Smith amendment to prohibit use of taxpayer dollars to promote abortion overseas. While not reducing any U.S. funding of legitimate family planning programs, this amendment simply redirects those American dollars to organizations which, like most Americans, believe our tax dollars should never be used to promote abortion as if it were an acceptable method of family planning.

It is not.

We should provide funding only to organizations whose goals are consistent with those of the United States. If they want our money, they should be required to play by our rules.

Since 1993, the Clinton administration has taken every opportunity to promote the pro-abortion platform at home and around the world. Most Alabamians resent their tax dollars being used, by anyone, to promote abortion on demand. Their hard earned money should not be squandered to provide what is seen by some as an easy way out of an inconvenient pregnancy.

Mr. Chairman, the United States should be a role model for the world—especially when it comes to issues of morality, honest values, and concerns.

This amendment is our opportunity to do just that and to take a small step to stop the insanity of abortion on demand or whim. Support the Smith amendment.

DISMANTLEMENT OF THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, included in the House budget resolution Report 104-120 is a statement by Budget Committee member Earl Pomeroy that the majority party intends to privatize the dismantlement of nuclear weapons, a function presently performed by the Department of Energy [DOE]. This is inaccurate.

The House Republican Energy Department task force recommendation calls for elimination of the DOE over several years. This will save taxpayers billions of dollars and begin the process of downsizing the Federal Government. The task force recommendation includes the creation of an independent civilian agency within the Department of Defense to manage the dismantlement of nuclear weapons and the cleanup of nuclear waste. This independent agency would be called the Defense Nuclear Programs Agency, and there would be consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency on cleanup activities.

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